

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 446

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (RICHARDSON, ELLIOT L.) MO US

SUBJECT: VISIT TO MOROCCO OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ELLIOT L.

RICHARDSON

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL NOVEMBER 29-30 VISIT TO RABAT RECEIVED WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE AND TOP MINISTERIAL ATTENTION. CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER AND ACTING MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADING MOROCCAN ECONOMIC OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN AFFORDED EFFECTIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO DEMONSTRATE OFFICIAL US INTEREST IN RESPONDING TO MOROCCO'S DESIRE FOR HIGHER LEVELS OF US TRADE AND INVESTMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PACKED PROGRAM DURING TWO DAY VISIT TO RABAT, FORESHORTENED BY UNEXPECTED MISSION TO TURKEY AS GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE, SECRETARY RICHARDSON CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER AHMED OSMAN AND ACTING MINISTER FOR COMMERCE MOUSSA SAADI, AND MET WITH UPWARDS OF 30 TOP MOROCCAN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN AT SOCIAL EVENTS IN HIS HONOR. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS (SEPTELS) WERE PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN PRESS, RADIO, AND EVENING TELEVISION. MORNING PAPERS GAVE FRONT PAGE

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COVERAGE TO VISIT WITH FULL TEXT OF DEPARTURE

STATEMENT AND COMMENTARY ON INSIDE PAGES. WEDNESDAY
AFTERNOON PAPER CARRIED FOUR COLUMN FRONT-PAGE PHOTO
AND TEXT RE CALL ON PRIME MINISTER.

3. LEVEL OF INTEREST ON PART SENIOR OFFICIALS WAS
EXTRAORDINARY, CONSTITUTING TRIBUTE BOTH TO SECRETARY
RICHARDSON AND CURRENT US-MOROCCAN
RELATIONS. ACCEPTANCE RATE FOR LUNCHEON GIVEN BY
AMBASSADOR UNPRECEDENTED DESPITE LATE MORNING RETURN OF
KING FROM PARIS. FOLLOWING WREATH LAYING CEREMONY
TUESDAY MORNING, SECRETARY AND PARTY
WERE GIVEN GUIDED TOUR OF ROYAL MAUSOLEUM
AND MOSQUE--A SIGNAL HONOR IN AN ISLAMIC COUNTRY WHERE
MOSQUES ARE CUSTOMARILY CLOSED TO NON-MUSLIMS.

4. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, SECRETARY RICHARDSON, ACCOMPANIED BY
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ AND ECOUN CALLED ON PRIME
MINISTER OSMAN FOR FIFTY-FIVE MINUTE HEAVILY SUBSTANTIVE
CONVERSATION (BEING REPORTED BY MEMCON),
FOLLOWING WHICH PARTY REACHED AIRPORT IN TIME FOR WELL-ATTENDED
PRESS CONFERENCE. SECRETARY'S
STATEMENT (IN FRENCH) FOCUSSED ON ADMIRATION FOR MOROCCO'S
ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE AND COMMENTED ON
OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED BILATERAL TRADE AND INVEST-
MENT IDENTIFIED DURING VISIT. HE NOTED THAT THE UNITED
STATES HAS THE LONGEST UNBROKEN TREATY RELATIONSHIP IN ITS
HISTORY WITH MOROCCO. SECRETARY THANKED THOSE WHO HAD
MADE HIS BRIEF TRIP SUCH A REWARDING ONE, UNDERTAKING TO
RETURN TO ENJOY MOROCCO'S RENOWNED HOSPITALITY AS PRIVATE
CITIZEN. HE PROMISED TO REPORT FULLY TO PRESIDENT FORD ON
HIS TRIP AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BRING TO
THE ATTENTION OF HIS SUCCESSOR THE MANY COMMERCIAL AND
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS INSUFFICIENTLY WELL-KNOWN
COUNTRY. FULL SET PRESS CLIPPINGS WILL BE POUCHED IN TRIPLICATE
FOR ATTENTION OF WEBB.

5. ALL IN ALL THIS WAS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL
AND USEFUL, IF ALL-TOO-BRIEF, TOP LEVEL VISITS IN RECENT
YEARS.

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